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## LETTERS TO THE STAR

### Peril of Viet Nam

What "necessary measures" does Secretary McNamara propose?

At the peak of the Korean War peril, Gen. Omar N. Bradley reportedly stated, "We are fighting the wrong war, against the wrong enemy, at the wrong place and time."

As far as the people of Korea were concerned, initially at least, this was a civil war to correct the obvious mistake of the great powers in dividing a country whose people wanted above all else unity through independence. In fact, such a government had already been set up in Seoul in 1945, when the United States military forces arrived, and proceeded to disband it, allegedly as a security measure. Is not the United States

Government repeating the same mistakes in South Viet Nam as in Korea earlier?

If the late John Foster Dulles had not insisted upon repudiating the 1954 Geneva Convention which provided for the neutrality of the states formerly composing French Indo-China; if he had not violated the solemn pledge given in the name of the United States Government, not to interfere with the provisions of this convention, Viet Nam would have been united in 1956, through free elections as provided for in this convention.

Are not the present reasons for the civil war in Viet Nam similar to those of Korea earlier, that is, a desire for unification and independence from outside interference?

Secretary of Defense McNamara recently reported to the House Armed Service Committee that the Vietnamese war "was going badly" and the United States must be ready "to take all necessary measures" to prevent a Communist victory.

The great danger is that the United States leaders may try to impose a military solution through massive United States intervention, as was tried in Korea. But this would certainly provoke Chinese and North Vietnamese intervention.

Unhappily, the United States has no allies in this undeclared war against the South Vietnamese people and, therefore, no restraint upon her actions.

This is a world problem and the world should have a voice in its solution. Otherwise this civil war is almost certain to escalate into a world war and "journey's end" for man.

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